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**Statement of Connecticut Innovations Regarding Raised Bill 389 An Act
Concerning the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund**

Raised Bill 389 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund adds a new provision to the Clean Energy Fund's statutes. Under current law, the Fund is required to develop a comprehensive plan and in such plan to give preference to clean energy projects that maximize the reduction of federally mandated congestion charges. The bill adds the requirement that the Fund also give preference in its comprehensive plan to projects that have certain societal benefits including a lessened carbon footprint, reduction of air, noise and water pollution, job creation or an increased tax base.

This legislation actually goes right to the crux of what the Clean Energy Fund is all about. Whether evaluating projects for funding, improving the programs we currently offer or developing new programs to meet the needs of Connecticut's residents and its business community, the Fund routinely focuses on attaining a sustainable balance of energy production, economic growth and environmental impact. These basic criteria are the core elements we consider in all of the work the Fund undertakes.

The Fund is currently in the process of developing a draft comprehensive plan to submit to the Department of Public Utility Control for approval. The plan includes an Infrastructure Development Program one component of which will support academic institutions to address workforce development needs for the emerging renewable energy industry. Another program discussed in the comprehensive plan, the Technology and Economic Development Studies Program will develop long-term renewable energy strategies to increase the industry's contribution to Connecticut's economy. I am happy to provide to anyone who would like it a copy of the draft comprehensive plan in which you will see that the Clean Energy Fund focuses on energy production, economic growth and environmental impact in all that it does.